

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Existentialism is a philosophical movement which claims that individual human being has full responsibility for creating the meanings of his / her own life. One of the movies that are related to the existentialism is *My Name is Khan* directed by Karan Johar. It is the working title for an upcoming Hindi movie starred by Shahrukh Khan and Kajol. This story is written by Shibani Bathija, an Indian screenwriter, and produced by Hiroo Johar and Gauri Khan. It is edited by Deepa Bhatia. This movie is running for 160 minutes. The music of this movie is by Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy and the cinematography is Ravi K. Chandra. It was released on 12 February 2010. The film was released in India on DVD on 28 April 2010. The worldwide gross revenue for *My Name Is Khan* from the box office is US\$ 36,145,870. It is distributed by Dharma Productions, Fox star Studios, Fox Searchlight Pictures and Red Chillies Entertainment. This drama movie is about an ordinary man, but he has an extraordinary journey of life. The man named Rizwan Khan, a Muslim from Borivali section of Mumbai. The story and screenplay by Shibani Bathija for the most part, holds together very well.

In *My Name is Khan*, Shahrukh Khan is playing the character of Rizwan Khan. This person suffers from Asperger's Syndrome, which is an autism disorder and is characterized by difficulties in social interaction and behavior. A kind of

autism makes him walk in a challenged manner. Loud noises make him nervous; the color yellow freaks him out and he is unable to express his emotions clearly. But because of good cognitive skills, he learns facts quickly, and becomes a kind of a Mr. Fix-it- repairing broken things. When his mother dies, Rizwan moves to America to live with his unsympathetic younger brother (Jimmy Shergill) and his wife (Sonya Jehan). Even as Rizwan finds it hard to adjust to the new and busy environment, he gets a job as a shop to shop beauty product salesman.

Rizwan begins to work for Zakir and in the process he meets a Hindu woman, Mandira (Kajol) and her young son, Sameer or Sam (Yuvaan Makaar), from a previous marriage. Mandira is a hairdresser by profession. Despite Zakir's hostility to the match, they marry and settle down in the fictional town of Banville, where both Mandira and Sameer take Rizwan's last name as their own. They also live next door to the Garrick family.

One afternoon, an argument between them turns into a racially motivated schoolyard fight between Sam and a number of older students. Reese tries to stop the fight but is held back and Sam is injured so badly that he dies. A shattered Mandira blames Rizwan for his death stating that Sam "died only because his name was Khan." She then tells Rizwan that she no longer wants him in her life. When he asks her what he has to do to be a part of her life, she tells him that he has to tell the people of the United States, and the President that his name is Khan and that he is not a terrorist.

Rizwan thus sets out on a journey that takes him from one US state to another (including Georgia, where he is befriended by Mama Jenny) in order to first meet President George W. Bush and later Barack Obama. During this quest, he is detained and later freed from the San Francisco Airport. Later, in Los Angeles, he prays in a Mosque and overhears violent rhetoric from Faisal Rahman (Arif Zakaria). He reports this to the FBI but there is no response at that moment. Later, while waiting in a crowd to meet President Bush and repeating again and again, "my name is Khan and I am not a terrorist," Rizwan is arrested and placed in a prison by police who misinterpret his statement.

While in the prison he is tortured as a terrorist suspect and meets the psychiatrist Radha (Sheetal Menon) who believes he is innocent. He is later released after a media campaign by two Indian student reporters Raj (Arjun Mathur) and Komal (Sugandha Garg) and Bobby Ahuja (Parvin Dabas) prove his innocence by unearthing his attempts to inform the FBI about Faisal Rahman. After his release, he returns to hurricane-hit Georgia to help Mama Jenny and her son. His efforts attract media attention and numerous Muslims come to help as well. At the same time, Reese confesses to Mandira and reveals the identity of the boys who beat up Sam. She informs Detective Garcia (Benny Nieves) who has been assisting her on the case.

After they are brought to justice, she joins Rizwan in Georgia. At the moment she arrives, Rizwan is stabbed by a follower of Faisal Rahman and is rushed to the hospital. With Mandira's help, he survives and meets President-elect Barack

Obama (Christopher B. Duncan) who tells him: "Your name is Khan and you are not a terrorist."

Karan Johar is an Indian film director, producer, and TV celebrity. He is the son of Hiroo Johar and the late Yash Johar. He is one of the most successful young filmmakers in Bollywood. Dharma Productions, founded by his father, is Johar's production company. As a child, he was influenced by commercial Indian cinema and he cites Raj Kapoor, Yash Chopra and Sooraj R. Barjatya as his inspirations.

Johar formally entered the film industry as an actor, portraying Raj's (Shahrukh Khan) close friend in *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* (1995). He was also assistant director on this film and helped director Aditya Chopra in writing the screenplay for this film. In addition, he selected Shahrukh Khan's costumes, something he continued to do for Shahrukh Khan's other movies like *Dil To Pagal Hai* (1997), *Duplicate* (1998), *Mohabbatein* (2000), *Main Hoon Na* and *Veer-Zaara* (2004) and *Om Shanti Om* (2007).

Johar made his directorial debut with *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai* in 1998. The film won eight Filmfare Awards in 1998 including Best Movie, Best Director and all four Best Actor awards for both leading and supporting roles. Johar's second directorial effort was the family drama, *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham*, released in 2001. It was also highly successful and won five Filmfare Awards. His 2003 film, *Kal Ho Naa Ho*, was directed by Nikhil Advani. His 2005 film, *Kaal* was directed by Soham Shah, Johar's assistant director from *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham*. In

May 2005, after taking a four-year break from directing, Johar began working on his third film as a director and fourth film as writer; *Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna*, (*Never Say Goodbye*). The movie was the highest grossing overseas film of all time. In November 2009, Johar ended shooting for his film *My Name Is Khan* starring Shahrukh Khan and Kajol Devgan, reuniting them after seven years. The film released to overwhelmingly positive reviews and strong box office figures 12 February 2010, with a series of premieres in Abu Dhabi and Berlin.

The why of the writer choose *My Name Is Khan* as the object of the paper, there are four reasons. The first is because the story is realistic and praise must go to Shibani Bhatija for scripting an amazing screenplay and to Karan Johar for sticking to realism

The second is because this movie is starred by the famous actor, Shahrukh Khan, popularly known as "King Khan" is one of the top 50 personalities of the world as per Newsweek. The son of a freedom fighter, he is a great actor, producer, television host and a lover of sports.

The third is because this movie is categorized as the box-office film, *My Name Is Khan* is an interesting movie and one of the big movies Bollywood film directed by Karan Johar that is liked by most of the people in the world. Narrated about a Muslim who suffers from the Asperger syndrome, a form of autism that impacts social interaction abilities, and he is arrested as a suspected terrorist.

The fourth reason is because the writer chooses Rizwan Khan's existence in as not a terrorist, because the writer feels that Rizwan Khan's struggle is the biggest struggle. Rizwan Khan's sacrifices his life to prove that his clan is not a terrorist. The writer sees the conviction that Rizwan Khan begins a journey to meet US President Obama to clear his name.

Motivated by the fact mentioned above, the researcher is eager to explore the message that built in this movie entitled **RIZWAN KHAN'S EXISTENCE IN KARAN JOHAR'S MY NAME IS KHAN MOVIE (2010): AN EXISTENTIALIST APPROACH**

B. Literature Review

There are some researchers in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta who studied *My Name Is Khan*. Gushinta Ekawati Suprpto (UMS, 2011), conducted a study entitled *Defense Mechanism of Rizwan Khan in My Name Is Khan Movie (2010) Directed by Karan Johar: A Psychoanalytic Approach*. In her research paper, the writer shows that the problems of the major character are caused by defense mechanism. She finds that love, marriage and religion become major problem that make major character, Rizwan Khan produces defense mechanism. Rizwan defense mechanism leads him becomes a tough man in making decision in his life.

Another research was conducted by Arkin Haris, (UMS, 2011), entitled *Recognition of Courage in Karan Johar's My Name Is Khan (2010): An*

Individual Psychological Approach. In his research paper, he focuses on the major character of the movie, Rizwan Khan. He uses An Individual Psychological Approach. He finds that in *My Name Is Khan*, the major character, Rizwan Khan does some efforts to get recognition for his courage that represents a case study of individual psychology and also the major character's personality changes after he has goal to get recognition for his courage that his name is Khan. Finally, Islam is not similar to terrorism.

The differences between the writer and the two previous writers are the theme and the perspective. Gushinta Ekawati Suprpto writes about the defense mechanism of the major character in *My Name Is Khan* by using Psychoanalytic Approach and Arkin Haris writes about the recognition of courage of the major character in *My Name Is Khan* by using An Individual Psychological Approach, while the writer analyzes the American's oppression toward Muslims in America as terrorist after the tragedy of WTC in Karan Johar's *My Name Is Khan* movie by using Sociological Approach.

C. Problem Statement

The problem that will be analyzed in this thesis is based on the background explained before. In order to reach the goal, the writer chooses the following problem statements. How is the existence of Rizwan Khan as not a terrorist reflected in Karan Johar's *My Name Is Khan* Movie.

D. Objective of the Study

This research that the writer wants to analyze focus on:

1. To analyze Rizwan Khan's Existence in Karan Johar's *My Name Is Khan* Movie (2010) based on the structural elements of the movie.
2. To analyze Rizwan Khan's Existence in Karan Johar's *My Name Is Khan* Movie (2010) based on existentialist approach.

E. Limitation of the Study

This study has wide scope and it is impossible for the researcher to handle the entire problem. Therefore, the researcher limits the problem in Rizwan Khan Existence as not a terrorist and the major character in Karan Johar's movie, viewed from the existentialist perspective.

F. Benefit of the Study

It is understood that everything done has advantage. Different activities have different advantage whether theoretical or practical advantages. In this study the researcher expects that the research paper has some benefit either in theoretical or practical:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The result of the research paper can be used as input in Existentialism Theory. The result of the research can be used as the

reference for those who want to conduct a research in Existentialism approach of literature analysis.

2. Practical Benefit

- a. For getting deeper understanding about existentialist issues in *My Name Is Khan* movie.
- b. For getting bachelor degree of education in English Department.

G. Research Method

The methods that will be used in the research are:

1. Type of the Study

In this research, the researcher will use the qualitative research in the form of literary work. It also mentions the form of the data. There is no numeration either. So, statistic is not necessary in examining and exploring the facts in qualitative research. Therefore it will not require any calculation and enumeration.

2. Object of the Study

The object of this study is *My Name Is Khan* movie directed by Karan Johar and publishing by Dharma Productions and Red Chillies Entertainment in 2010. It is analyzed by using existentialist approach.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

In the study there are two sources of data namely primary and secondary data sources.

a. Primary Data

The primary data source is the movie itself, *My Name Is Khan* directed Karan Johar in 2010.

b. Secondary data sources

The writer takes the secondary data source, including reference and materials related to the study whether picking up from books or internet, such as author's biography, the nomination of *My Name Is Khan* and many other data related to this research.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

Technique of the data collection will be in form of library research.

There will be some techniques:

- a. Watching and learning the movie repeatedly and carefully.
- b. Taking notes of the influence information in both primary data and secondary data.
- c. Arranging the data into several parts based on its classification
- d. Selecting particular parts considered important and relevant for analysis.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

In this study is using the Existentialist analysis, in which the writer tries to describe the structural elements of the movie, and Existentialist analysis of the movie.

H. Research Paper Organization

This paper is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is introduction which explains background of the study, literary review, problem statement, and limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and research paper organization. The second chapter is underlying theory of Existentialist perspective. The third chapter consists of structural analysis of the movie and discussion. The fifth chapter consists of analysis based on Existentialist approach. And the last chapters are conclusion and suggestion.